effort would be to achieve the national goal of 66% forest cover in the Himalayan region by the turn of the centuary

(c) According to the 'State of the Forest Report 1991' the loss of forest cover in the states of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam has been on account of shifting cultivation in Arunachal Pradesh and degradation of dense forest area in Brahmaputra valley in Assam due to biotic pressure.

(d) The Government have taken following steps to preserve Himalayan eco-system and check deforestation

1. The Forest (Conservation) Act enacted in 1980 to check diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes has been made more stringent by an amendment in 1988

2. G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development has been established to evolve effective strategies for management of natural resources and sustainable development

3. An integrated Action Oriented Research Development and Extension Programme in the Himalayan Region has been launched

4. Guidelines have been issued to State Governments from time to time for protection of forests. Some of these guidelines are as follows

   (i) To avoid clear felling of natural forests and where such fellings are inevitable for restoration of crop or other silvicultural considerations, it should be restricted to areas not exceeding 10 hectares in the hills and 25 hectares in the plans.

   (ii) To identify critical areas in the hills and mountains which require protection from felling of forests and need immediate vigorous afforestation

   (iv) A massive afforestation programme including Social Forestry and Agro-forestry under 20 Point Programme is under implementation in all States & UTs.

   (v) Government of India have also issued guidelines for peoples' participation in management and development of degraded forests and their active involvement in afforestation programme

Tribal Culture

*201 SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN. Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state

(a) the steps taken so far by the Government to protect and preserve the tribal culture and heritage,

(b) the funds allocated therefor so far; and

(c) the contribution of the Tribal Research Institutes in the country in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) For the protection and preservation of the Tribal Culture and Heri-

tage, the Department of Culture has through its scheme for Promotion and Dissemination of Tribal and Rural Art and Culture financed voluntary organisations and individuals and institutions. Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya , Anthropological Survey of India, Lalit Kala Akademi, Sangeet Natak Akademi as well as Zonal Cultural Centres have all been given the charter to carry on the work of preservation and promotion of the tribal culture and heritage.

The Department of Culture allocates funds to various autonomous organizations and individuals and voluntary organisations as mentioned above out of its total annual allocation. The exact amount and the duration varies each year depending upon the particular project and the scheme under which such funds are sought.

(c) Tribal Research Institutes are basically State Institutes receiving grants from Government of India under Centrally Sponsored Scheme. They undertake research and evaluation of various tribal development programmes, study tribal culture and heritage in respect of different communities collect and preserve tribal artefacts in Museums and also undertake research studies of the customary law prevalent among the Scheduled Tribal in the taxed tribal ethos and culture.

Electrification of Railway Lines in South

*202. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the kilometre-wise electrified railway lines at present in the Zonal railways covering the States of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to electrify certain railway lines in Karnataka during the Eighth Plan period; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) As on 1.3.92, Route Kilometres electrified in the States of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu are 21, 1176 and 634 respectively.

(b) and (c) Railway's Programme for electrification during the 8th Five Year Plan has not been finalised. However electrification of Renigunta-Guntakal-Hospect and Tornagallu-Ranjitpura Branch Line has been included in the Railway Budget proposals for 1992-93 as a new work, a part of which viz Tsakibanda-Hospect section (120 RKMs) lies in the State of Karnataka. Further, electrification of Bangarpet-Bangalore section (7 RKMs) falling in the State of Karnataka is currently in progress and the same is expected to be completed by March 1992

Supply of Wheat to Flour Mills

*203. SHRI TARA CHAND KHANDELWAL
SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have provided large quantities of wheat to flour mills in the country at subsidised rates;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the quantity of wheat supplied to the flour mills during the last six months, month-wise;

(d) the rates at which the wheat has been supplied to these flour mills;

(e) whether the wheat products mad